

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

THESEVENTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS DISCUSSED.—  
THE NASHVILLE BOOK-HOUSE—WORK OF  
THE BIBLE SOCIETY—THE BROCK CASE  
DISPOSED OF—RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN  
REFERENCE TO RESTORATION OF FRAT-  
ERNAL RELATIONS—PROPOSED DIVISION  
OF THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE—REPORT  
ON EDUCATION—LYNCHBURG SELECTED  
AS THE NEXT PLACE OF MEETING—FINAL  
ADJOURNMENT PROBABLE TO-DAY, &c.

The Conference met yesterday at 9:30 A.  
M., as usual—Bishop Kavanaugh in the  
chair. The devotional exercises were led  
by Rev. James M. Anderson. The services  
were opened with the hymn beginning  
"O, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My Great Redeemer's praise."

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Anderson.  
"Am I a soldier of the cross?" &c.  
was then sung. Prayer by Rev. L. S. Reed.

THE PRESS.  
Rev. H. C. Cheatham read the report of  
the Committee on Publishing Interests, as  
follows:

Your committee do not deem it necessary  
at this day to enter upon any extended dis-  
cussion of the press either for good or evil.  
The press of this country is already so full  
of all observing and thinking men in the  
enervating, infidel, meretricious, and wick-  
ed literature which pours forth over all the  
land like a flood of dark waters in the form  
of newspapers, magazines, and reviews  
from the press under the control of corrupt  
and unprincipled editors, that we feel  
we believe that those having charge of the  
religious education of our young people,  
and those who furnish mental food for  
them, have not been altogether blameless in  
this matter, in that they have placed and  
allowed to be placed in our Sunday-school  
libraries and in the hands of our children  
books giving false views of life, promoting  
a sickly sentimentality, vitiating the moral  
taste, enervating the intellect, and some-  
times teaching doctrines contrary to the  
truth as it is in Jesus. As Christians  
and Christian teachers we cannot  
sound the alarm too often, too loudly, nor  
too earnestly in this matter.

The best and wisest men in the church of  
God have long known and appreciated the  
power of the press for good when properly  
controlled, and have employed it with grand  
and most precious results. The value and  
importance of the press as a constantly grow-  
ing and increasing power of the church, its  
blessed results are daily augmenting; and  
the circle of its influence is continually  
widening. The religious press has done  
and is still doing much for the promotion  
of truth and Christianity, and is destined to  
do far more. We pray for and expect the  
time when a sanctified press shall send forth  
a pure religious literature, like the water of  
the river of life, to bless and refresh the  
nations.

Among the agencies already engaged in  
this great and good work we have our own  
Richmond Christian Advocate, under the  
able and pious management of Rev. W. W.  
Bennett, D. D., and J. L. Lafferty. This paper  
has long been a weekly visitor to the homes  
of our people, carrying light and comfort  
to many hearts, defending our doctrines  
and tenets, and aiding our ministers in  
their work. It has become an indispensa-  
ble part and parcel of the religious press in  
Virginia. It is well and ably conducted.

The Southern Review, edited and published  
by Rev. A. T. Bledsoe and Mrs. S. Bled-  
soe Hickey, is of great value and ability.  
Your committee had under consideration  
a communication from Dr. A. H. Reddick,  
agent in regard to the case of the Southern  
Methodist Publishing House in Nashville.  
According to Dr. Reddick's estimate and report the assets of  
the Publishing House are \$756,842.26, and  
the liabilities are \$290,910.47. During the past  
year the house has reduced its indebtedness  
to \$5,695.20, and its assets to \$12,322.26.  
The agent regrets that he cannot make so  
favorable a report as he desired. The com-  
mittee very much regret that the facts com-  
municated to us in regard to the Publish-  
ing House are so meagre. We have so few  
details and particulars that we have no ac-  
count of the amount and character of the  
debts incurred during the past year. We  
specially invite the attention of the Book  
Committee to this fact.

We present the following resolutions:  
1. Resolved, That the exhibit made of  
the condition of our publishing-house is not  
sufficient in its details to afford a satis-  
factory basis for the recommendation of  
the committee to endorse the recom-  
mendation it contains—to wit: That we  
seek an increased distribution of our  
literature among our Sabbath schools  
and people; secondly, that we express it  
our judgment that, in view of the very  
heavy liabilities of the Publishing House,  
the instructions of the Book Committee  
to conduct the business hereafter  
on a strictly cash basis is a prime neces-  
sity to the integrity of the house; and  
thirdly, that we earnestly urge our brethren  
who are indebted to the publishing-  
house to settle their accounts on or before  
the 1st of December next.

2. Resolved, That it is our deliberate  
judgment that our agent ought to send to  
the annual Conference a full and itemized  
statement of all receipts and disbursements  
of the house, that we as a Conference may  
obtain a clearer knowledge or better under-  
standing of the condition of the same.

3. Resolved, That we cordially commend  
to the patronage of our membership the  
Christian Advocate, published at Nashville,  
and edited by Rev. T. O. Simmons, D. D.

4. Resolved, That we call the attention of  
the Methodist people to a book of sermons  
published by Bishop Marvin, entitled "The  
Loving-Kindness," and also Dr. A.  
G. Hayswood's book entitled "Our Chil-  
dren," and urge them to procure and read  
these sound and able works.

5. Resolved, That we reaffirm with great  
pleasure our high appreciation of the South-  
ern Review, edited by Dr. A. T. Bledsoe,  
as a most valuable and useful agency,  
and do most cordially commend it to the  
patronage of our people and public at large.

6. Resolved, That the Richmond Chris-  
tian Advocate has the first claim upon the  
patronage of our membership, that it is  
worthy of a large and liberal support,  
and that we urge the brethren of the conference  
to increase its circulation until it shall be  
found in the family of every member of our  
Church.

The report was discussed till the hour of  
11 o'clock arrived, when it was laid on the  
table, and the special order of the day (the  
consideration of the Bible cause) was taken  
up.

BIBLE CAUSE.  
Rev. R. E. Armstrong presented the report  
on the Bible cause, detailing the efforts  
of the Virginia Bible Society. In the past  
five years it has distributed 36,000 volumes  
of Scripture, valued at \$29,000. The So-  
ciety, through its missionaries, has visited  
77,700 families, and carried the Blessed  
Book to more than 50,000 of our destitute  
population. "The American Bible Society,  
in view of its present financial condition,  
cannot, as in the past, continue its liberal  
donations to the Virginia Bible Society,  
that it has now reached a period in its  
history when it must depend mainly upon  
the hearty cooperation and material aid of  
the evangelical churches of the State to carry  
forward its operations. Unless this material  
aid be furnished the work must be discon-  
tinued. In view of these facts the commit-  
tee offer the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That we, in the past, re-  
affirm our devotion to the Virginia Bible  
Society, and pledge to it our continued  
countenance and support.

2. Resolved, That we incorporate the  
Bible cause into the list of benevolent en-  
terprises recognized by this Conference,

and request our ministers to present its  
claims to their respective congregations,  
and take up a collection for its benefit.

3. Resolved, That the ministers of this  
Conference be requested to continue the  
Bible cause with other demands made upon  
time and attention, to render assistance to  
the general agent in the prosecution of the  
work of the Society.

4. Resolved, That the presiding bishop of  
the Conference, as desired by the Board of  
Managers, be requested to continue the  
Rev. John G. Rowe in his present relation  
as agent to the Society.

BIBLE ADDRESSES.  
On motion of Rev. Dr. Edwards, the Con-  
ference invited the Rev. Dr. Hoge, of the  
Second Presbyterian church, and president  
of the Bible Society, to address the body on  
the Bible cause. Dr. Hoge demonstrated  
that nothing more than resolutions were  
needed to enable the Society successfully to  
prosecute its mission; active assistance such  
as could be given by the Methodist preach-  
ers was needed.

Dr. Hoge graphically described the power  
and influence of the Methodist Church and  
the agency of the Bible cause, and the  
importance of the latter to exert their in-  
fluence in behalf of the Bible cause. The  
Bible, he said, was needed by all classes of  
society—the children, the business-men,  
the learned professions, and the politicians.  
Especially was it needed by the freedmen.  
The Bible was the only book that could  
set them free, and he urged them to let us  
let us, he said, furnish them with the Bible.  
Dr. Hoge took occasion during his eloquent  
remarks to refer to the opposition to the  
use of the Bible in the public schools. He  
thanked God that it would forever be a text-  
book in the Sunday schools. He also  
touched upon the scientific objections to the  
Bible, and the efforts of the Methodist  
Church to meet them. He also touched upon  
the country in the present crisis, and ar-  
gued that our safety and welfare, political  
and religious, depended upon biblical in-  
struction and obedience to its teachings.

Dr. Hoge was unusually eloquent. His  
illustrations were clear and forcible, and the  
attention given him was unmistakable evi-  
dence of the interest his address excited.

Rev. Dr. Edwards also made an earnest  
and eloquent appeal in behalf of the cause.  
Rev. Mr. E. M. Peterson called attention  
to the fact that half of the money collected  
for the Bible cause was paid out in the way  
of missionary work.

Dr. Edwards explained that those com-  
missions included payment for the labors of  
missionaries and colporteurs visiting dis-  
tant homes in the mountains and by the sea-  
shore, and their work, the good they did,  
was far beyond what could be measured in  
dollars. The moral result attained could not  
be calculated in cold metallic figures.

Dr. Edwards made a full explanation of  
the workings of the Society, clearly show-  
ing that the money paid out was not merely  
to distribute Bibles, but to spread the gos-  
pel, and for prayer and the people, and to  
put them on the right road.

Mr. Peterson expressed his satisfaction  
with Dr. Edwards' explanation.  
On motion of Dr. Edwards, Rev. Mr. W.  
Staples, of the Presbyterian Church, gen-  
eral agent of the Virginia Bible Society,  
was invited to address the Conference. He  
stated that every dollar contributed in Vir-  
ginia to the Bible cause—and more—was  
returned in Bibles and Testaments given to  
the poor and destitute of the State. As for  
the Bibles sold, they are sold at the price  
they cost in New York, and the Society  
pays freight. This they have been able to  
do with the generous aid of the American  
Church. In eighteen months more the  
Society will have furnished every desti-  
tute family in Virginia that can read a copy  
of the Bible.

The report was adopted as a whole.  
Bishop Kavanaugh expressed his gladness  
that Mr. Peterson had provided the ex-  
planation from Dr. Edwards, and he was glad  
that the Society was fully vindicated. The  
Bishop exhorted the ministers to stand up  
to the Bible cause, for he held that it is the  
foundation of the country's liberties and  
welfare. He hoped the Bible Society would  
not be forgotten in the collections during  
the coming year, and that they would guard  
the religious and political liberties from all  
usurpers, and through Jesus be free indeed.

THE BROCK CASE.  
Rev. Dr. Granbery, from the committee  
in the Brock case, submitted a report. Mr.  
R. S. Brock was a member of the Gordonville  
church, but was expelled for several causes.  
He appealed from the Church to the Confer-  
ence, and the Quarterly Conference had  
declined to try his appeal. Then he came  
to the Annual Conference with a history  
of the case, and questioned the conduct  
of the Quarterly Conference and of the  
presiding elder (Rev. Mr. Proctor), who was  
ex-officio the presiding and law officer  
of the Quarterly Conference.

The committee stated the facts, and held  
that Mr. Brock's appeal to the Quarterly  
Conference should have been tried.  
The committee, in conclusion, say:  
"The committee therefore believe that  
the presiding elder has given the same  
ministry as in the Quarterly Conference, and  
that to dismiss the appeal without a  
hearing; but they find no reason to suspect  
any improper spirit or intention on his part.  
If he erred, it was his construction of the  
law. We recommend—

1. That the appeal of R. S. Brock be  
remanded to the Quarterly Conference of  
Gordonville station for trial.

2. That the character of Rev. Joseph A.  
Proctor do pass."

Rev. Mr. Proctor defended the action of  
the Quarterly Conference, and stated that  
Mr. Brock, and those acting with him, had  
placed the case of the Quarterly Conference  
in a false light.

That was the occasion of Mr.  
Brock's expulsion.

Rev. Mr. Nolley denied that the trouble  
in the Gordonville church had been origi-  
nated by Mr. Brock, and that Mr. Brock and  
those affiliating with him had placed them-  
selves in rebellion against the Church.

The conference was among the very  
best men in the church, and were awaiting  
the first opportunity consistent with their  
self-respect to return to the Church.

Rev. Paul Whitehead said nothing could  
be clearer than that Mr. Brock had been  
illegally cut off from the Church. He might  
be the very best man in the world, but he  
was in the world, that did not alter the case;  
it had nothing to do with it. The Conference  
must see justice done without regard to  
persons.

Mr. Proctor argued the law points in the  
case, and held that the Quarterly Confer-  
ence had closely followed the law, and that  
the statutes and practices of the Church.

Dr. Granbery said that Mr. Proctor had  
acted in perfect faith in this matter, but  
misunderstood the law. Mr. Brock having  
made a confession which he doubted if the  
recording angel ever could reduce to order.

A number of points raised by Rev. Mr.  
Ware and submitted to the Bishop were sus-  
tained by the latter.

1. Is it the prerogative of a quarterly con-  
ference or of the presiding elder to decide  
whether an appeal be entertained?

Answer: It is the prerogative of the  
quarterly conference to cause to refuse to  
entertain an appeal.

II. After the quarterly conference has de-  
cided not to entertain, has the presiding  
elder any authority to compel them to?

Answer: He has not.

The two resolutions in the report were  
adopted, and the report itself was then  
adopted.

FRATERNAL RELATIONS.  
Rev. P. A. Peterson, from the Commit-  
tee on Fraternal Relations, submitted the  
following report; which, on motion of Mr.  
Lafferty, was adopted:

The committee appointed to consider

what action would be appropriate on the  
part of this Conference in regard to the re-  
sults of the meeting between the commis-  
sioners of the Methodist Episcopal Church  
South and the Methodist Episcopal Church  
South, held at Cape May, N. J., August, 1876,  
be leave to offer for adoption the following:

Whereas for more than thirty years wide  
difference of opinion on vital questions has  
prevented formal fraternal intercourse and  
relations between the two great divisions  
of American Methodism, and whereas the  
Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Ep-  
iscopal Church South; and whereas by the  
action of the General Conference of the two  
Churches commissioners were appointed,  
clothed with full powers to adjust all diffi-  
culties and to open the way for formal frater-  
nity; and whereas said commissioners, in a  
joint meeting held at Cape May, N. J., in  
August, 1876, unanimously agreed upon  
and duly published a plan of settlement;  
therefore,

1. Resolved, That the adjustment so  
unanimously and heartily effected by the  
commissioners of the two churches, and  
honorable to both the confiding parties,  
and should be hailed with the liveliest satis-  
faction and with devout gratitude to Al-  
mighty God by all who desire the peace of  
Zion and the prosperity of Methodism.

2. Resolved, That we regard the action of  
the commissioners in their settlement, as an  
authoritative and final settlement of the ques-  
tions in issue, and binding upon all the  
ministers and members of the two churches  
represented, and that we cordially acquiesce  
in and will faithfully abide by the same.

3. Resolved, That we have been deeply  
affected by intelligence of the death of Rev.  
E. H. Myers, D. D., chairman of the com-  
missioners on fraternity, and to whom the  
Church is largely indebted for the happy  
results of the Cape May Conference, and  
that we tender to his family and his Con-  
ference our deepest sympathy in their bereave-  
ment.

P. A. PETERSON, Chairman;  
J. M. LEE,  
J. A. DUNCAN,  
J. POWELL, GARLAND,  
J. E. EDWARDS,  
J. F. BRANNIN,  
R. KILBY,  
F. H. SMITH,  
H. W. MURRAY,  
VITORS.

Rev. Dabney Ball, of the Baltimore Con-  
ference, and Rev. Mr. Duncan, of the North  
Georgia Conference, were introduced to the  
Conference and invited to privileged seats.

About 2:20 o'clock a recess was taken till  
7:30 o'clock.

NIGHT SESSION.  
Rev. Dr. J. A. Duncan occupied the chair  
at the night session. The religious exer-  
cises were led by Rev. Mr. Manning.

Rev. A. G. Brown, from the Joint Board  
of Finance, submitted a report appor-  
tioning \$5,614 for the support of superan-  
nuated ministers, widows, and orphans  
of deceased ministers. The report  
was adopted.

All the superannuated ministers were  
continued except two—Rev. George W. Nolley,  
who was upon his own request, left  
upon the effective list, and the case of Rev.  
John A. Davis, continued till to-day  
(Thursday). Mr. Davis was not prepared  
to say whether he wished to be put upon  
the effective list or be retained on the super-  
annuated list.

PROPOSED DIVISION OF CONFERENCE.  
Rev. Dr. Bennett offered the following:  
Whereas in the judgment of this Confer-  
ence the interests of Methodism would be  
greatly promoted in the whole northeastern  
portion of our Church territory by a divi-  
sion of annual Conferences and a rearrange-  
ment of conference lines; and whereas the  
present lines are so large and unwieldy  
Conferences cannot so readily and satisfac-  
torily transact business when in session, nor  
be easily accommodated except in large  
cities; and whereas we feel convinced that  
in smaller and more compact Conferences  
there would be a greater development of  
the religious and political life of the  
people, and a better arrangement in the form  
of circuits and districts, with other obvious  
advantages; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of five mem-  
bers of this Conference be appointed to take  
into consideration the question of a divi-  
sion of the Conference territory, and to re-  
port to the next annual Conference.

The committee shall report its action to  
the next session of this Conference.

W. W. BENNETT,  
PETERSON.

The resolution was adopted.  
Dr. Bennett explained the necessity, as he  
thought, for the contemplated action, and  
suggested that a good line of division of this  
Conference would be down the James river  
from the Blue Ridge to Hampton roads,  
thence down the eastern shore to the sea,  
and thence to the Potomac, throwing Nor-  
folk on one side and Portsmouth on the  
other. He would have the boundaries of  
the North Virginia Conference extended to  
the Potomac river on the North, and to the  
Blue Ridge on the west. Then make the  
Valley counties into another Conference,  
and the counties of Maryland into a third.  
The District of Columbia and the State  
of Maryland, and the Eastern Shore of Vir-  
ginia.

Rev. Mr. Ware thought the movement at  
this time would injure the prospects of  
Randolph-Macon College.

Dr. Bennett believed that the interests of  
the College would be promoted rather than  
hurt. He had reason to believe, too, that  
the Maryland brethren would not look upon  
the scheme with disfavor, if it could be  
made to appear that the general good of the  
Church could be advanced.

Dr. Bennett believed that the reasons why,  
in his opinion, he regarded the step as inad-  
visable at this time.

Dr. Rosser conditionally supported the  
proposition of Dr. Bennett, and it was  
adopted.

The following committee was appointed:  
Rev. W. Bennett, Rev. P. A. Peterson,  
Rev. Dr. Duncan, Thomas Branch, of Rich-  
mond; and George M. Bayne, of Norfolk.

EDUCATION.  
Rev. Dr. Bennett presented a report ably  
dealing with the subject of education. The  
progress in that direction the Methodists  
have made; the necessity for the instruc-  
tion of children at home; the care that  
should be exercised in the selection of teach-  
ers, and sanitary arrangement of schools,  
were all elaborately discussed. Farmville  
College, Rev. Paul Whitehead, principal;  
Wesleyan Female College, at Mur-  
freesboro', N. C., Rev. G. Starr, presi-  
dent; Southern Female College, at Peters-  
burg, Williams T. Davis, principal; and  
Mrs. Chandler's Female School, at Green-  
wood, Caroline county, were mentioned as  
worthy of the patronage of the people of  
the Randolph-Macon College, Rev.  
Dr. James A. Duncan, president, was re-  
ferred to in terms of high praise, and a  
special appeal was made for means to enable  
it to continue its career of usefulness.

The report asked that the Bishop approve  
the appointment of the ministers who are  
engaged in these fields of labor, and also the  
appointment of Dr. Granbery as professor at  
Vanderbilt University, and that the usual  
orders be made in behalf of the college.

The report was made the order for 10  
o'clock to-day.

PUBLISHING INTERESTS.  
The report on publishing interests was  
taken from the table. The first resolution  
was adopted at the morning session.

Rev. L. M. Peterson was mentioned so as to request  
the publishing agent, instead of an itemized  
statement, to send a more explicit report of

the condition of the Publishing-House to this  
Conference.

Some of the brethren desired to ask the  
agent of the Publishing-House, Rev. E. W.  
Dr. Rosser objected to "fuller." He said  
that full (the word in the context) was full,  
and couldn't be fuller. For the sake of  
their literary reputation he objected to the  
use of that word "fuller."

The second resolution was finally, on mo-  
tion of Mr. Jenkins and Mr. E. W. Dr. To-  
day, amended by striking out "full and  
itemized statement," and inserting "more  
detailed statement," and by striking out  
"the general statement of the Publishing-  
House" and inserting "the general condi-  
tion of the Publishing-House." The report  
was then adopted as a whole.

NEXT CONFERENCE.  
On motion of Dr. Edwards the Confer-  
ence proceeded to the place for the next  
meeting. The following nominations were  
made:

By Mr. Twitty: Charlottesville.  
By Mr. Jenkins: Lynchburg.  
Messrs. Christian and Jenkins spoke for  
Lynchburg, and Messrs. Ware and Twitty  
for Charlottesville. The vote was taken, and  
Lynchburg was chosen.

After the usual religious exercises the  
Conference adjourned till 9:30 o'clock this  
morning.

It is expected that the Conference will  
conclude its labors to-night.

YESTERDAY'S RACES.  
NOTED HORSES AT THE FAIR-GROUNDS—  
MAIN BRACE, PLUTO, AND BAY-RUM BEAR  
OFF THE PALM.

The great interest felt by our people  
in the result of the presidential elec-  
tion, and the unsettled condition of the  
country, no doubt, prevented many of our  
citizens from participating in the fine sport  
in the way of racing, which was offered  
them at the Fair-Grounds on yesterday.

The meagre attendance, too, may be attrib-  
uted in great measure to the want of some  
general and cheap mode of transportation  
for the legitimate and first-class sport offered  
yesterday warranted a more generous ap-  
preciation on the part of our citizens.

Our sporting-men would do well to ob-  
serve the promptness and expedition with  
which these races are conducted. There is  
nothing in the day, characteristic in our  
early trials of speed.

The track yesterday was very heavy in-  
deed, having just been ploughed and  
dragged, and consequently greatly against  
speed. It was much preferable, however,  
to the hard and brick-like surface which  
was presented during the Fair.

THE FIRST RACE.  
Was a dash of half-mile for two-year-olds.  
Purse, \$75—\$25 to first, \$25 to second,  
and \$25 to third. A. B. Lewis & Co., Spring  
Kentucky, entered gray gelding Bosworth  
by Bonnie Scotland, dam Meteor, by Child  
Harold; J. W. Welden, Jr., New York city,  
entered bay filly Flora, by Van-Dance, dam  
Flora Major; W. P. Burch, of South Caro-  
lina, entered bay gelding Main Brace, by  
Prussian, dam by Charley Ball.

They got off from the start about even,  
Flora leading slightly, followed closely by  
Bosworth, and Main Brace some three  
lengths behind. Bosworth passed Flora  
when about half the distance, but could not  
maintain his lead, and was running side  
by side when Main Brace, who was about  
two lengths behind, came with a  
rush, winning the race very gamely by half  
a length, with Flora second and Bosworth  
third. Time, 0:59. In the selling of pools  
Main Brace had all the calls.

THE SECOND RACE.  
Was a dash of one mile for all ages; to carry  
100 pounds; no allowance. Purse, \$100—  
\$75 to first horse and \$25 to second horse.  
A. B. Lewis & Co. entered b. c. Pluto, three  
years old, by Planet, dam Eleanor, by Vol-  
taire; C. W. Medinger, of Baltimore, en-  
tered ch. g. First Chance,